Academic Assembly Steering Committee

Annual Report

Academic Year 2013-2014

Committee Members: Ali Houissa (Liaison to the Economic Status of Librarians Committee), David Ruddy (Secretary), Nina Scholtz (Liaison to the Ad Hoc Committee on Virtual Attendance), Fred Muratori (Liaison to the Ad Hoc Committee on Promotion Review), Lyndsi Prignon (ad hoc), Martha Walker (Chair of SC)

Report by: Martha Walker, 9/29/2014; submitted 10/20/14

At the first meeting of the year, 9/25/13, after welcoming new members David Ruddy and Nina Scholtz, the AASC picked up on several initiatives that had been started during academic year 2012-2013. The committee’s primary focus during fall 2013 was on facilitating the work of the two ad hoc committees formed the previous year (virtual attendance and examination of the promotion review process), as well as determining appropriate follow-up to the May 2013 Assembly meeting, in which the work and recommendations of the Economic Status of Librarians Committee (ESLC) had been presented and discussed. Assembly Chair Anne Kenney attended this meeting and shared her thinking on topics of potential interest to Assembly members in the coming year.

Our October meeting consisted of brief progress reports on the work of the two Ad Hoc Committees by their respective AASC liaisons. As well, Curtis Lyons, Chair of the ESLC, led a discussion on the work of that committee. Activities reported upon included the survey that had been conducted as well as a number of one-on-one discussions with former ESLC members and (faculty) experts on the topic. We discussed next steps for the AASC to solicit feedback on the report, and determined to hold a special mid-year meeting of the Assembly for that purpose.

Our November meeting included progress reports on the Ad Hoc Committees, and a further refinement of the role of the AASC in regards to the “special charge” of the ESLC in 2012, “. . . to review the current report and its structure for continued relevance.” Please see the Minutes of 11/20/2013 for an excellent summary of this discussion. We finalized the agenda for the upcoming meeting of the Assembly scheduled for 12/18/2013.

As mentioned above, there was a full meeting of the Assembly in the G-10 Biotech space, which included brief updates on the work of the Ad Hocs. The majority of the meeting was dedicated to the presentation and discussion of the ESLC report and recommendations, led by Curtis Lyons. Anne Kenney was unable to attend this meeting. Xin Li filled-in for Anne as Assembly Chair, and introduced several new members of the academic staff.

From January through March, 2014, the AASC met on a monthly basis. Our focus was on developing a response to the report of the ESLC and the feedback we had received on that report at the December Assembly meeting. As well, AASC liaisons continued meeting with the Ad Hoc Committees, and reporting progress at AASC meetings.

April, 2014: Lyndsi Prignon and Martha Walker participated in the annual presentation of the Academic Promotion Review Panel, which is organized by CUL’s Career Development Committee and Library Human Resources each year. Lyndsi Prignon discussed the “process logistics” of promotion review.
Martha spoke briefly about the role of the AASC in the review process. During April the AASC also met to review and recommend qualified candidates to serve on the two promotion review panels for the upcoming year. In a joint effort of the Library Forum Steering Committee and the AASC, and at the request of the University Librarian for the two groups to work together to bring a “deep thinker” to campus, Winston Tabb was invited to speak at a meeting of the Library Forum on May 14. Mr. Tabb is the Sheridan Dean of University Libraries and Museums at Johns Hopkins University. The title of his talk was, “Sleepless Nights: Pressing Issues for ARL Directors.” The forum was held in Lincoln Hall and was well attended. Mr. Tabb’s presentation was well received.

May 2014 was also a busy month for AASC members and included several meetings in preparation for the annual spring meeting of the Assembly, which was held on May 21, in Room 120 of the Physical Sciences Building. The AASC was proposing several changes to the Assembly’s Bylaws to accommodate the recommendations of the Ad Hoc Committee on Virtual Attendance and a language revision to the charge of the ESLC. All proposed changes to Bylaws were approved. Anne Kenney chaired the meeting, introducing new members of the academic staff. The Ad Hoc Committee on Promotion Review also gave a brief progress report and outlined their next steps.

June 2014: AASC approved the final appointments to the promotion review panels. AASC members also recruited candidates to fill three positions on the AASC.

July 2014: Working with the Research and Assessment Unit of CUL, a successful election of three AASC members is completed.

August 2014: Incoming and out-going AASC members receive the Final Report of the Ad Hoc Committee on Promotion Review.

September 2014: Incoming and out-going AASC members meet to discuss the content of and next steps pertaining to the Final Report of the Promotion Review Committee.